THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1948

Curzon, Printer, Pontypool and Abersychan

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HANBURY ROAD,
PONTYPOOL, MON.
1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Pontypool Urban District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Welsh Board of Health have requested that Medical Officers of Health confine their Annual Reports for 1948 to essential and urgent matters, and I beg to submit mine in this form.

Physical Features

Items under this heading correspond with my report for 1938.

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Information under the above heading has been purposely omitted.

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate	17·56	per 1,000 population
Death Rate	11·20	,, ,, ,,
Infantile Death Rate	34·90	per 1,000 live births
Infectious Disease Death Rate excluding Tuberculosis	00·07	per 1,000 population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	00·41	,, ,, ,,
Other Tuberculosis Diseases Death Rate	00·09	,, ,, ,,

Birth Rate

The total number of births returned by the Registrar General for the calculation of Birth Rates for 1948 (known in Table I. as "B.R.") and for the calculations of Infant and Maternal Mortalities (known in Table I as "I.M. &c.") was as follows—

Live Birth Rate	17·56 per 1,000 population
Illegitimate Birth Rate	26·88 per 1,000 live births

The number of women dying in consequence of childbirth was nil.

From puerperal sepsis (No. 29)	nil
From other maternal causes (No. 30)	nil
Total deaths under headings (Nos. 29 and 30)	nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	34·94
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35·91
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0	0	0
,, whooping cough (all ages)	0	0	0
,, cancer	73	48	25
,, diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	0	0
,, scarlet fever	1	0	1

AGES AT DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Under one week	13
1—2 weeks	—
2—3 ,,	—
3—4 ,,	2
Total under one month	15
1—3 months	5
3—6 ,,	4
6—9 ,,	2
9—12 ,,	—
Total under one year	26

INFANTILE DEATH RATES (1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) COMPARED

Year	England & Wales	Monmouthshire	Pontypool
1948	34	43·9	34·94

Table 1.—Causes of Death in Pontypool Urban District 1948

	CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
	All Causes	284	194
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—
2	Cerebro spinal fever ...	1	—
3	Scarlet fever ...	—	1
4	Whooping cough ...	—	—
5	Diphtheria ...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	16	5
7	Other forms of tuberculosis ..	3	1
8	Syphilitic diseases ...	2	—
9	Influenza	—	1
10	Measles ..	—	—
11	Ac. polio-myel and polio-enceph. ...	—	—
12	Ac inf. enceph. ...	—	—
13	Cancer of B; cav: and oesoph: (m) uterus (f)	5	5
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	16	5
15	Cancer of breast ...	—	3
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	27	12
17	Diabetes ...	—	3
18	Intra-cran: vasc; lesions ...	25	28
19	Heart disease ...	71	73
20	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	9	8
21	Bronchitis ...	28	4
22	Pneumonia ...	9	7
23	Other respiratory diseases ...	4	3
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	3	—
25	Diarrhœa, (under 2 years) ...	—	—
26	Appendicitis ..	1	—
27	Other digestive diseases ...	3	6
28	Nephritis ...	3	3
29	Puerperal and post abort. sepsis ...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes ...	—	—
31	Premature birth ...	3	5
32	Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	5	2
33	Suicide ...	3	1
34	Road traffic accidents ...	4	—
35	Other violent causes ...	8	6
36	All other causes ...	28	12

		M	F
		For I.M. etc.	
Live Births	Total	380	364
	Legitimate	372	352
	Illegitimate	8	12
Stillbirths	Total	16	10
	Legitimate	15	10
	Illegitimate	1	—

		M	F
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total ...	15	11
	Legitimate ..	15	11
	Illegitimate ..	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority

These were similar to my Report for 1947. Dr. A. Carveth Johnson, Tuberculosis Physician from the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association visits the Park Buildings, Pontypool, on Tuesday only of each week.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

As stated in my Annual Report for 1947, several items under this heading will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report at the end of this Report.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

This is reported on by the Sanitary Inspector in his Report.

HOUSING

This is also reported on by the Sanitary Inspector in his Report.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Items under this heading are as reported in my Annual Report for 1938.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has reported on the work carried out during the year in his Report.

The Council is the authority for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

No alarming disclosures under any of the headings set out in my Annual Report for 1947 and no alteration from the information stated therein.

Prevention of Blindness

No action was taken by the Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TABLE II.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS, NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ARRANGED IN AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages	Cases removed to Hospital
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...
Malaria and Dysentery ...	...	.	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	0	..
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...				...	...	...	1	1	1	3	...
Scarlet Fever ...	..	1	..	3	3	17	11	1	1	1	...	...	38	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	...	...	.	...	.	.	...	...	...	1	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever .		...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	..	...	...	...	...		..	...	...	..	...	...	0	...
Typhoid Fever .	...	...	...	...	...	..	...		1	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .	..	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Small Pox ..	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	0	...
Pneumonia ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	..	...	.		.	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...
Typhus Fever .	...	..		...	...			...	...	.	...	...	0	...
Measles ...	19	34	43	43	53	76	5	2	...	...	...	...	275	..
Whooping Cough ...	5	6	9	3	9	7	...	..	...	..	...	...	39	...
Puerperal Fever ..	...		..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	0	...
Meningitis .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...
TOTALS ...	25	43	52	49	65	101	17	3	5	2	1	2	365	5

TABLE III.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS, IN AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3-4	4—5	5-10	10 15	15-20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages
Diphtheria ...	...	..	..	...	..	...	...	.	..	..	...	...	0
Malaria and Dysentery ...	.		...		...	...		...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas ...	...	..	..	..	.	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	..	1	..	...	.	...	...		..	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...		...	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	...	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	..	..	...	...	...	..			..	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	.	...	...	...	..	...	...		...	...	0
Small Pox ..			...	...	..		...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...		...	..		..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Maternal Causes ...	...	...	.	.	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	0
Measles ...	...		..	..	.	...	...	...	...	...		...	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
TOTALS ...	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Tuberculosis

Forty-Three (21 male and 22 female) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and Thirteen (3 male and 10 female) of the other forms of the disease were notified during the year.

There were Twenty-One (16 male and 5 female) deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease, and Four (3 male and 1 female) of the non-pulmonary form.

The King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association have an institute at the Park Buildings, Pontypool, where Dr. A. Carveth Johnson attended on Tuesday of each week to see new cases referred to by the Medical Practitioners for examination, and old cases still requiring supervision or treatment. Visits were also made by Dr Johnson to the homes of people too ill to attend the Institute.

No action for the compulsory removal of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936, became necessary.

No cases of Tuberculosis among employees engaged in the milk trade came under my observation, therefore no action under the Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925, became necessary.

All deaths from Tuberculosis during the year had been previously notified in the district, except three, one of which was a post-mortem diagnosis.

TABLE IV.

Particulars of New Cases of Tuberculosis and Deaths from the Disease during 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1
5—15	2		...	1	...	...	1	...
15—25	1	13	2	2	1	1	1	...
25—35	7	6	...	2	3	2	...	...
35—45	3	1		2	2	...	...	...
45—55	5	1	...	1	5	1	...	...
55—65	2	...	.	1	3	1	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Totals	21	22	3	10	16	5	3	1

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 24 Clinics were held at the Schools and Child-Welfare Centres conducted by Assistant Medical Officers from the County Council Staff.

The number of children who completed the course up to December, 31st, 1948, under 15 years of age, is 5,940.

Venereal Disease

This complaint is dealt with by the Health Department of the County Council.

Posters have been placed in all the Public Conveniences throughout the Area, giving full particulars of the dangers attendant on the disease and directing the patient to apply to the County Medical Officer for particulars of treatment, and giving the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, as the Central Clinic for this purpose. Bedclothes and bedding are disinfected at the Council's Steam Disinfector.

Recommendations

As stated in my Annual Report for 1938, with special emphasis on the provision of telephones at the residences of the Sanitary Inspectors.

ADDENDUM.

The figures for this report were compiled in readiness for signature by the former Medical Officer of Health to the Council, Dr. T. McAllen, but his illness and death in June 1949 made this course impossible. Dr. T. McAllen relinquished his duties as District Medical Officer to the Council on 31/12/48, after which these duties fell to the full-time Area Medical Officer to No. 7 Area, which comprises the Urban Districts of Pontypool and Blaenavon

Under these circumstances I append my signature to this report on behalf of the late Dr. T. McAllen

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. J. HALLINAN

p.p. **Dr. THOMAS McALLEN**

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MARKET BUILDINGS,
CRANE STREET,
PONYPOOL, MON.

Following is my report on work carried out by the Department for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

NOTICES SERVED.

Number Notices Sect. 9 H.A 1936	.....	221
,, ,, ,, 93 P.H.A. 1936	.....	155

DEFECTS IN DWELLINGS.

Houses repaired externally	.....	241
Houses repaired internally	.....	178

DRAINAGE.

Drains examined	.....	34
Drains opened and cleansed	.....	12
Drains connected to sewer	.....	6
New drains provided	.....	2
Defective drains repaired	.....	33
Defective W.C's. put in order	.....	41
Defective flushing tanks repaired or renewed	.....	10
New tanks supplied to W.C's.	.....	8
New pans supplied to W.C's.	.....	7
New lavatories provided	.....	2

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

131 Council Houses were inspected during the year, and with few exceptions these houses are well maintained.

OTHER NUISANCES.

Accumulation or refuse removed	.....	3

TENTS, SHEDS and VANS

The small number of vans and sheds occupied as dwellings have been inspected, and cleanliness kept to a reasonable standard. Action in regard to these dwellings is held up by the present housing conditions consequent upon the war.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

Inspections of workshops and workplaces has been carried out, and below is a report on inspections made—

Premises	No. of Inspections	Notices served	Action necessary
Factories (including Laundries)	26	2	nil
Workshops	25	—	nil
Workplaces	8	--	nil

All notices served in connection with these premises were complied with.

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES.

Forty-Six visits were made to the bakehouses, and in no case was it necessary to serve Notice for the abatement of nuisance.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Thirty-Three visits were made to these premises, and in every instance they were found to be clean and well maintained.

CINEMAS.

Number of cinemas in the area	.....	5
Number of inspections made	....	28
Notices served and complied with	.....	nil

INSPECTION of MEAT and OTHER FOODS.

Below is my report of meat inspected at the Central Slaughter House Abersychan, showing the number of cattle killed and meat condemned.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	1055	333	978	11038	51
Number inspected ...	1055	333	978	11038	51
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	6	8	—	10	4
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned ...	40	84	3	780	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	4·36	27·6	·3	7·2	17·6
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ..	3	5	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	52	73	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5·1	23·4	—	—	1 9

MEAT CONDEMNED.

Beef	.....	6935 lbs.	Lamb	.....	46 lbs.
Mutton	.....	418 ,,	Veal	.....	71 ,,
Pork	.....	329 ,,			
			Total		7,799 lbs.

OFFAL CONDEMNED.

Cattle—309 livers, 296 lungs, 82 melts, 108 heads and tongues, 9 complete offal, 8 tongues, 83 other organs.

Sheep—1186 livers, 721 Lungs, 71 plucks 16 heads

Calves—1 complete offal

Pigs— 5 plucks, 3 complete offals

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

136 tins milk, 98-lbs bacon, 672-lbs fish, 41 tins beans, 8 tins salmon, 18 tins pilchards, 45 tins peas, 208-lbs corned beef, 39-lbs butter, 30 jars jam, 12 tins fruit salad, 15 tins apricots, 32 tins tomatoes, 1 tin tongue, 208 lbs imp. Beef

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of Infectious Disease notified were dealt with by the Department, terminal disinfection carried out, and all precautions taken against the spread of the disease.

Five cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Enviremental Reports were made on all cases of Tuberculosis notified.

WATER SUPPLY.

Five samples of water were taken from springs and wells in various parts of the area, and submitted to the County Analyst for examination—

Three samples were found to be satisfactory and Two samples unsatisfactory. These supplies were untreated water.

Four samples were taken from the Company's Main Supply and were satisfactory.

155 samples were taken by the Company's Inspectors, and all were satisfactory.

Generally the water supply to the area is of good quality and well maintained.

HEAT TREATED MILK.

Sixty Three samples of Heat Treated Milk were taken during the year.

Four samples were found to be below the standard required for Heat Treated Milk, usually due to loss of temperature during the process of pasteurisation, which was rectified, and following check samples proved satisfactory. 59 samples were of the required standard.

Eight samples of Heat Treated Milk taken at the schools were satisfactory.

FOOD and DRUGS ACT, 1934—1938.

34 samples of milk were taken under the above Acts, and submitted to the Public Analyst. All samples were genuine milks and no action was necessary against vendors or producers. The quality of milk supplied in the area is good.

71 samples of various other foods were also sent for analysis, and all found to conform to the standards laid down, and were of the quality and substance demanded by the purchaser.

ROOMS WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED. AND WORKS CANTEENS.

The kitchens of cafes and catering establishments were inspected. Only on one occasion was it found necessary to instruct the Licencees to take greater care in the cleanliness of the premises and storage of food.

Subsequent visits showed an improvement.

Works Canteens are excellently managed, and no complaints have arisen.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Ten complaints of Bug Infestation were dealt with, and the use of Cimex Blocks and a good insecticide spray proved successful in abating this nuisance.

RATS and MICE DESTRUCTION.

During the year the destruction of Rats and Mice was carried out with good effect.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the department has complied with the Orders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, relative to the destruction of Rats and Mice.

Two Maintenance Treatments were carried out in the Council Sewers. 362 Manholes were bated, and the number of pre-bait takes were 19 in the first treatment, and 32 in the second treatment. This shows that the position regarding the sewers from infestation is very satisfactory, and general improvement is shown from the time this method of treatment was adopted.

53 Business Prenises were treated, and no major infestation reported. The result of baiting these premises was very satisfactory.

146 Private Dwellings were successfully treated.

The Refuse Tips and depots belonging to the Council were systematically treated with good results.

Generally speaking the rat-population of the area has shown a marked decrease in the past five years.

I should like to thank the buisness people of Pontypool, and the Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the help they have given to the department

SCHOOLS.

Inspection of Schools has been carried out, and no nuisances found to exist in the premises.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. MEEK

(Chief Sanitary Inspector)